

Indeed, it was the odd fortune of the writer of the Declaration of Independence to be accused in later years of having pilfered many of his ideas from the "Summary View."

Jefferson's views were too radical for the official approbation of the Convention, but he seems not to have been in advance of the public opinion of his constituency, for upon the occasion of his double election, to the Convention, and to the House of Burgesses in July, 1774, he drew up and caused to be adopted by the freeholders of Albemarle County a set of resolutions in which the right of self-government among the colonies without the intervention of Parliament was strictly asserted. Other counties passed spirited resolutions, but none were so spirited and revolutionary as these. The same citizens of Albemarle, after they had adopted the resolutions drawn up by their leader, armed themselves and threatened Lord Dtmmore with punishment for stealing the powder of the colonists from the magazine in Williamsburg. Jefferson was doubtless behind this uprising, for he was the most prominent member of the Committee of Safety in his county.

In March, 1775, the Virginia Convention met at Richmond in the parish church of St. John, Jefferson in attendance. The eloquence of Patrick Henry hurried the willing body into revolution. He moved that the Colony "be immediately put into a state of defense," and in support of his motion delivered a speech that set on fire the souls of his hearers and still thrills the hearts of American school boys. Henry's motion was carried, and a committee consisting of himself, R. H. Lee, R. C. Nicholas, Benjamin Harrison, George Washington, Edmund Pendleton and Thomas Jefferson was appointed to devise a plan for putting the colony upon a military basis. Before the Convention adjourned it selected Jefferson to represent the colony in the Continental Congress in the place of Peyton Randolph, providing the latter should be recalled to preside over the House of Burgesses. In June, 1775, Randolph was recalled, and Jefferson became a member of Congress. Before he took leave of the colonial legislature, however, he prepared a reply to Lord North's "Conciliatory Proposition," which had been referred